



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thesalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

**(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)*

Announcements

Gathering
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.^

Prelude....A time for silent reflection
Advent Candle Lighting

*"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" v. 1 **ELW #240***

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.
Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.**

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth.

We fear those different from ourselves.

**We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.**

Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✝ your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal
promise, and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" **ELW #242**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***KYRIE**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In case of emergency, contact Pastor Cathleen, via text, 608-865-1074,
Justin Arndt (608-435-6336) (414-587-6642) or Nalani Bever,
To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani (608-387-2311)

Additional Contact Information:

Pastor Cathleen: cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu

Justin Arndt: arndt.now@gmail.com

Church: wiltonchurch@gmail.com

Nalani Bever: nalanib@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.stpaulswilton.com/>

FACEBOOK!! Home page: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Wilton WI

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Afghanistan Refugee Assistance

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse are the lead agency in providing information with regard to the needs of the refugees at Ft. McCoy. We will collect items each Sunday and deliver them to the Sparta Armory.

- Winter Coats
- Shoes

Prayers for the Children

We ask that all members join the Women of the ELCA and pray this prayer as you rise in the morning and as you prepare to retire each evening.

Lord, Jesus Christ, I bring to you:

Jada, Myles, & Conner Garske; Britain Hahn, Gracie Brandau; Amara Brandau; Chase Brandau; Avery Brueggen; Riley & Aria Brueggen; Nolan & Logan Buchholz; Thadyn & Ayawyn Conner; Vanessa & Elliott Ornes; Lailah Eckes; Lena Ornes; Porter Sorenson; Kennedy & Josie Ornes; Brooklyn, Madelyn, & Kaylin Gruen; Emma, Bryce, Marah & Bria Gruen; Ava, Katie, & Benjamin Gruen; Brady Zimmerman; Braylee Zimmerman; MaKenzie & Cooper Powell; Wesson & Arden Mayne; Vanessa, Mia, & Brek Anderson; Tyler & Jaden Bever; Carlee, Collin, & Camden Neidfeldt; Morgan Speicher; Krista & Sierra Cook; Tyler Brandau; Franklin & Douglas Wildes; Sophia, Derek & Deacon Erdman; Kody Tormoen; Angel Brueggen; Callie Fleming; Miranda, Daphne & Linus Arndt; Emma Elder; Bryson Lamb; Alaina & Braxton Holthaus; Jayda Leis; David, Sam & Zachary Ross; Gannon Tormoen; Jase & Margo Picha; Watson Sebranek.

That your spirit will dwell with them according to your will. That they will grow in the knowledge of you and know that they are dearly loved by you. I pray that you will protect them from deception by the evil one and all his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning what direction you have in mind for them. I also pray for all children everywhere, that you would keep them in your care. In Jesus name I pray. Amen

P: For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

***Canticle of Praise**

“This is the Feast”

ELW p. 149

***Prayer of the Day**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.[^]

FIRST READING

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The LORD is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-10

- ¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.
- ²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
- ³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
- ⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**
- ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted
all the day long.
- ⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**
- ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of
your goodness, O LORD.
- ⁸**You are gracious and up right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**
- ⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.
- ¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

SECOND READING

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our

CALENDAR

Sun., Nov. 28	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am
	"Manna & Mercy" Bible Study	11:15 am
Sat., Dec. 4	"Road to Bethlehem"	2:00-6:30 pm
	Sugar Creek Bible Camp	
Sun., Dec 5	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am
	First Communion	
	Social Ministry (see below)	11:15 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Decorating

Thank you to John and Barb Ornes, Ava Gruen, Justin, Miranda, Linus, and Daphne Arndt, Emily, Greg, and Nalani Bever for decorating the sanctuary and outdoors for the Christmas season.

Poinsettia Donations

Do you wish to make a donation toward the cost of poinsettias in honor or memory of a loved one? If so, you will find the usual form and an envelope in the narthex. Please complete and give the envelope to Nalani or drop it in the offering plate located in the narthex. Thank you.

Social Ministry Meeting

We are looking for folks willing to serve on the Social Ministry Committee. April Arndt is the Church Council liaison, and is asking that any folks interested in joining attend the meeting on December 5. The meeting will be held immediately following worship. This invitation is extended to all church members, men and women.

“Lamb of God”

ELW p.154

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit’s power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.^

*Benediction

Sending Hymn

“People, Look East”

ELW #248

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God’s People, Pastor: Cathleen Morris; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Justin Arndt; Communion Servers: Karen Arzt and Barb Bever

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Steve Zirk, Gary Von Ruden, Sue Ann Degenhardt, Curt Brieske, Randy Steinbrink, Annette Udulutch, Gloria Meltesen, LuAnn Bever-Denter, Harvey Menn, Dave Crowe.

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale

Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

*Gospel Acclamation

ELW p.151

*GOSPEL READING

God will fulfill God’s purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God’s people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God’s promised redemption.

Luke 21:25-36

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day “Blessed Be the God of Israel” **ELW #250**

Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great**)

OFFERING

Offering plates are located in the Narthex as you enter and exit the church.

Offering Prayer

God of our waiting and watching,
**we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.
Amen.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ^

***GREAT THANKSGIVING** ELW p. 152

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** ELW p. 153

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Words of Institution

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy
name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us
our trespasses, as we forgive those who
trespass against us; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine
is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

P: Come to Christ’s banquet.
Feast on God’s gift of grace.

Distribution

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ’s table.